



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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June 15, 2006

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **EP-2**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY
FACILITY FACILITATION SERVICES
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with Alternative Resources, Inc., effective as of the award of the Agreement, for a period of two years ending July 31, 2008, at a total cost not to exceed \$490,000. Funding will be provided by the County's Solid Waste Management Fund (GD1 Fund) in Fiscal Years 2006-07 and 2007-08 and will be partially reimbursed by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (up to \$300,000) with no net impact on the County General Fund. The purpose of the Agreement is to facilitate the development of a conversion technology demonstration facility in Southern California.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In support of local governments' efforts to comply with the provisions of AB 939 and enhance the County's solid waste management system, on July 27, 1999, your Board unanimously adopted a series of recommendations developed by the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force. These recommendations included promoting and developing alternatives to landfills and incinerators, such as conversion technologies. Conversion technologies are processes that can convert residual, post-recycled solid waste into renewable and environmentally benign fuels and other sources of clean energy, including electricity.

Utilizing conversion technologies to manage post-recycled solid waste can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants; reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels; enhance recycling efforts; and exceed California's strict environmental standards. Although 150 of these technologies have been in successful use throughout Europe and Japan for over a decade, currently there are no commercial conversion technology facilities processing municipal solid waste in the United States.

Following your Board's action of July 27, 1999, Public Works proactively and aggressively implemented additional waste diversion programs, supported efforts to enhance in-County disposal capacity, and promoted alternatives to disposal at landfills and incinerators. For example, we worked with the Sanitation Districts as a condition of approval of the land-use permit for the Puente Hills Landfill, to provide up to \$100,000 per year for ten years to the County to conduct studies on conversion technologies. The Sanitation Districts has also committed to consider additional funding to develop a facility in Southern California should a viable conversion technology be identified.

On July 20, 2004, your Board awarded a Consultant Services Agreement with URS Corporation. Under that Agreement, URS Corporation screened and ranked 28 conversion technology suppliers and identified local materials recovery facilities (MRFs) willing to partner with a potential technology supplier with the ultimate goal of developing a demonstration conversion technology facility in Southern California, located at a MRF. In August 2005, the Task Force adopted a comprehensive report that identified six promising conversion technologies (four thermal technologies and two emerging waste-to-green fuel technologies), and identified six MRFs that are willing and capable of hosting a conversion technology facility.

In continued support of these efforts, we recommend your Board award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with Alternative Resources, Inc. This Agreement will facilitate the development of a demonstration facility by conducting an in-depth technical and economic evaluation of the six short-listed conversion technology supplies and six short-listed MRFs, and negotiate a partnership between the optimal MRF and conversion technology supplier.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Awarding this Agreement will meet the County Strategic Plan Goal of Children and Families Well-Being by improving the solid waste management system and providing for the long term, sustainable management of waste and resources in a way that protects the public's health and safety and the environment.

In addition, this Agreement will meet the County Strategic Plan Goal of Organizational Effectiveness, ensuring service delivery systems are efficient, effective, and goal-oriented since it enhances Public Works' capabilities with the expertise and experience of Alternative Resources, Inc., and their subcontractors.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total cost for this Agreement with Alternative Resources, Inc., is not to exceed \$490,000. The County's Solid Waste Management Fund (GD1 Fund) will be utilized to fund the Agreement; however, costs will be partially reimbursed by the County Sanitation Districts (up to \$300,000) as a requirement of the land use permit issued to the Puente Hills Landfill. There will be no net impact on the County General Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A standard Agreement, in the form previously approved by County Counsel, will be used. The Agreement includes the standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract terminations, renegotiations, and hiring qualified displaced County employees.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration for contract award, Alternative Resources, Inc., is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence/General Relief Opportunity for Work Participants for future employment.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the Agreement stating that the consultant shall notify their employees, and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees about Board Policy 5.135 (Safely Surrendered Baby Law) and that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws. Alternative Resources, Inc., is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program) and Chapter 2.203 (Contractor Employee Jury Service Program).

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A finding of environmental impacts is not required for execution of this Agreement. Prior to developing the conversion technology demonstration facility, the appropriate environmental documentation as required by the California Environmental Quality Act will be prepared.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On December 15, 2005, Public Works issued a Request for Proposals to 35 firms for this project. Three firms responded to the request. An evaluation committee, consisting of Public Works' staff, and three members of the Task Force's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee evaluated the proposals. Evaluation of the firms was based on general quality and responsiveness of the overall proposal, qualifications and experience, standard services and work plan, and deliverables schedule and cost. These evaluations were completed without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. Based on the review and evaluation of these proposals, the evaluation committee recommended Alternative Resources, Inc., as the most qualified firm to facilitate the development of a conversion technology demonstration facility in Southern California.

Participation by the Community Business Enterprises (CBE) in the project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good-faith efforts to utilize CBEs. Alternative Resources, Inc., is aware of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and their proposed CBE participation is on file with Public Works.

As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, this contract opportunity was listed on the "Doing Business with Us" website.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects as a result of this Agreement.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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CONCLUSION

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Department of Regional Planning